

Message Text

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62

ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0316

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, AR

SUBJECT: LOPEZ REGA GOES TO MISIONES PROVINCE

1. SOCIAL WELFARE MINISTER LOPEZ REGA PAID A THREE HOUR VISIT TO MISIONES PROVINCE ON MARCH 12 ACCOMPANIED BY MOST OF THE SUBSECRETARIES IN HIS MINISTRY PLUS PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SECRETARY VILLONE. THE ANNOUNCED PURPOSE OF THE TRIP WAS TO TURN OVER SEVENTEEN AMBULANCES TO A LOCAL HOSPITAL AND SEVERAL HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS WORTH OF SUBSIDIES AND EQUIPMENT TO LOCAL ENTITIES.

2. IN HIS REMARKS TO THE PRESS, LOPEZ REGA DENIED THAT THE TRIP HAD A POLITICAL PURPOSE OR WAS RELATED TO THE ELECTIONS IN THE PROVINCE WHICH ARE NOW LESS THAN AMONTH AWAY.

3. LABOR LEADER LORENZO MIGUEL AND PRESIDENT OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES RAUL LASTIRI RETURNED WITH LOPEZ REGA. THE TWO HAD GONE TO THE PROVINCE SEVERAL DAYS AGO TO STUMP FOR THE FREJULI CANDIDATES.

4. MEANWHILE, THE MID FACTION OF THE FREJULI IN THE PROVINCE HAS BEEN INTERVENED AS A RESULT OF ITS THREAT TO FORM ITS OWN SLATE OF CANDIDATES. SOME MID MEMBERS ARE NOW RESPECTING THE ORDERS OF THE NATIONAL MID LEADERSHIP TO SUPPORT THE FREJULI SLATE WHILE OTHER DISSIDENTS ARE STILL PLANNING TO

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GO THEIR OWN WAY.

5. COMMENT. DESPITE LOPEZ REGA'S DENIALS, THE SUDDEN INTEREST IN MISIONES ON THE PART OF THE GOA IS CLEARLY POLITICALLY MOTIVATED. MRS PERON HERSELF GAVE THE ORDER FROM THE BALCONY OF THE CASA ROSADA SENDING THE SEVENTEEN AMBULANCES ON THEIR WAY TO THE PROVINCE. PERONIST SOURCES HAVE EVEN EXPRESSED EMBARRASSMENT TO EMBOFF AT OBVIOUS ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE VOTES WITH GOVERNMENT FUNDS.
HILL

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